

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2496

AN ACT

To extend the authorization for the replacement of the existing Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Denver, Colorado, to make certain improvements in the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Construction Author-
3 ization and Choice Improvement Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR MAJOR MED-**
5 **ICAL FACILITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**
6 **PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
8 may carry out the replacement of the existing Department
9 of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Denver, Colorado,
10 in fiscal year 2015, in an amount not to exceed
11 \$900,000,000.

12 (b) LIMITATION ON OBLIGATION OF FUNDS.—Not-
13 withstanding section 8104(c) of title 38, United States
14 Code, or any other provision of law, funds may not be obli-
15 gated or expended for the project described in subsection
16 (a) in an amount that would cause the total amount obli-
17 gated for that project to exceed the amount specified in
18 the law for that project (or would add to total obligations
19 exceeding such specified amount).

1 **SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF DISTANCE REQUIREMENT FOR**
2 **EXPANDED AVAILABILITY OF HOSPITAL**
3 **CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES FOR VET-**
4 **ERANS THROUGH THE USE OF AGREEMENTS**
5 **WITH NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
6 **FAIRS ENTITIES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(b)(2) of the Veterans
8 Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public
9 Law 113–146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

10 (1) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “(as cal-
11 culated based on distance traveled)” after “40
12 miles”; and

13 (2) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by striking sub-
14 clause (II), and inserting the following new sub-
15 clause (II):

16 “(II) faces an unusual or exces-
17 sive burden in traveling to such a
18 medical facility of the Department
19 based on—

20 “(aa) geographical chal-
21 lenges;

22 “(bb) environmental factors,
23 such as roads that are not acces-
24 sible to the general public, traf-
25 fic, or hazardous weather;

1 “(cc) a medical condition
2 that impacts the ability to travel;
3 or
4 “(dd) other factors, as de-
5 termined by the Secretary.”.

6 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
7 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act and apply with respect to care or services
9 provided on or after such date.

Passed the House of Representatives May 21, 2015.

Attest:

Clerk.

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